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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 23 Fax: 2496530
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
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MYSURU Monday 29th June 2020
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Heavy rains turn city roads into rivers

Mysuru, June 29 (MTY, RK &KS)- It rained cats and dogs in city last evening and roads turned to rivers, drainages and stormwater drains overflowed and as usual, water entered houses and hotels in low-lying areas. It was just a drizzle at around 3 pm and later it grew into a heavy downpour.

Fortunately, it was a Sunday and most of the shops and business establishments even in the Central Business District remained closed due to weekly holiday and also COVID-19 scare. There was less movement on the streets and there was no usual traffic rush. Those vehicles that ventured out had to wade through waters and some of them broke down on the middle of the road.

According to Dr. C. Govindaraju of Organic Farm and Research Station, Naganahalli, it rained 15 mm to 20 mm last evening. He said that there will be moderate to heavy rains in the next three to four days and it is the 'Ardra' rains (from June 22 to July 5) that is lashing the city. From July 6 to July 19, it will be 'Punarvasu' followed by 'Pushya' (July 20 to Aug. 2). "All these rains will be helpful for paddy farming activities," he added.

Yesterday's rain caught many people unawares. They had not anticipated the sudden downpour and they were forced to take shelter at many places including bus shelters, petrol bunks, under-construction buildings and other places.

The intensity of the rain which increased gradually turned roads into rivers, flooded houses and other buildings in low lying areas besides making drains and even stormwater drains to overflow.

Various roads such as Sayyaji Rao Road, Seshadri Iyer Road, Dewan's Road, D. Devaraj Urs Road, JLB Road, Town Hall Road, Chamaraja Double Road, KRS Road, M.G. Road, Manandavadi Road and places such as Ramakrishnanagar 'I' Block, J.P. Nagar, Ashokapuram Railway Under Bridge, Bannimantap, Dufferin Clock Tower, Hardinge Circle, K.R. Circle and other Circles were flooded, making it difficult for motorists to move on the roads.

(See RAINS on page 6)

ANNOUNCEMENT

STAR OF MYSORE

will resume printing the newspaper from Thursday, 2nd July 2020

Due to Coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown notified by the Government, we had temporarily stopped the print edition of *Star of Mysore*.

Now that the Government has lifted the lockdown, we have decided to begin the print edition of *Star of Mysore* newspaper with effect from Thursday, 2nd July 2020.

We request our Subscribers, Advertisers, Agents and Well-wishers to co-operate and support *Star of Mysore* like in the past 43 years and help us to serve you better.

Arrangements are in place to deliver *Star of Mysore* at your home like before. However, there is also a Helpline: T. S. Gopinath, Circulation Manager, **Mobile: 98452 96447** and Office landline Phone: **2496520 / 21 / 23.**

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SSLC results in August first week,
II PU in last week of July: Suresh Kumar

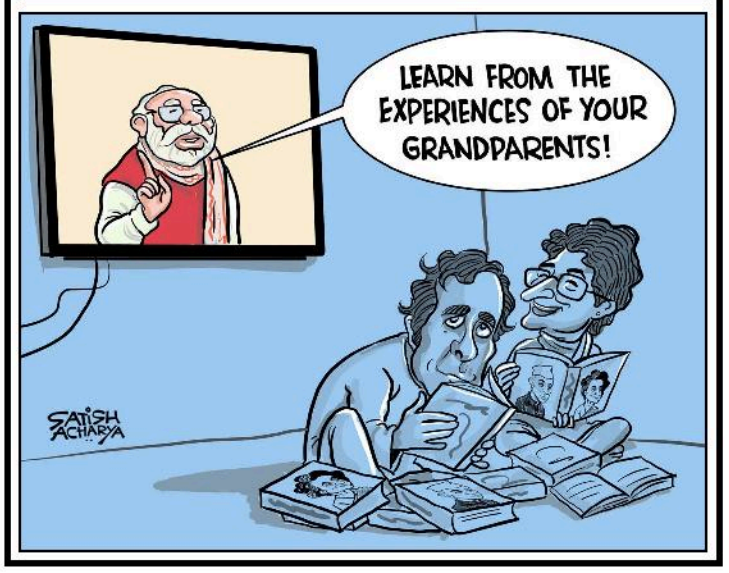
SAFETY FIRST: ***An SSLC student heads back home in an auto that has a plastic shield behind the driver's seat as a safety measure, after writing the exam at a centre in Mysuru today.***

Bengaluru, June 29 (UNI)- The results of Second Year Pre-University and the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exams will be out by July last week and August first week, said Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar this morning.

Instead of giving general promotion to the 10th and 12th standard students as the Central Board of Secondary Education and other States have done, the Karnataka Government decided to hold the examination defying the Coronavirus scare.

(See RESULTS on page 2)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 29th June 2020

Karnataka Government allows schools to conduct online classes

Mysuru, June 29- The Education Department on Saturday issued a fresh order allowing Schools in the State to conduct online classes.

Following an order by the High Court, the State Government has issued the above statement and private schools are now allowed to continue online classes from first standard to tenth standard students. This order will be valid till the State Expert Committee submits its report on this issue.

During lockdown period, most of the Schools across Karnataka affiliated to the State, CBSE and ICSE Boards had started online classes amidst strong objections from education experts and parents including Primary & Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar that educating young children online could have a serious impact on their health.

In line with the latest order issued by the High Court, the State Government is now allowing all Schools, for LKG to Tenth standard students affiliated to the State, CBSE and ICSE Boards, to conduct online classes according to the guidelines issued by Ministry of Human Resource Development.

According to Education Department Under-Secretary Shekhar, there are different sets of regulations to be followed for pre-school, primary, middle and high schools.

For pre-school students (LKG and UKG), once in a week, schools can communicate online only with the parents and guide them about the activities to be conducted.

For first to fifth standard students, schools can conduct online classes, once in two days in a synchronous manner, of not more than two sessions with each session lasting for 30 to 45 minutes, but for not more than three days in a week.

For sixth to eighth standard students, five days in a week in a synchronous manner, not more than two sessions with each session lasting for 30 to 45 minutes.

For ninth to tenth standard students, five days in a week in a synchronous manner, not more than four sessions with each session lasting for 30 to 45 minutes.

All schools including private unaided schools are not allowed to take extra fee for conducting online classes as expenses for conducting online classes would include in annual school fees and should follow the same fee structure which was applicable during 2019-20.

Strict action will be taken against those schools charging extra amounts for conducting online classes, the Department stated.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

FLAMBOYANCE: The other day when the flamboyant former Chief Minister of J&K Farooq Abdullah was seen inaugurating an ice-cream outlet in Srinagar, there was a hue-n-cry over social media. People questioned why Abdullah had kept mum over political issues in J&K after the abrogation of Article 370 last August. But when he has shunned talking and pursuing even his own brand of politics, what else is left for the idle old man to do than inaugurate an ice-cream outlet to cool himself off in this scorching heat. In the process, many say that Abdullah is trying to stay relevant with such antics to lure the gullible masses of Kashmir. Those expecting political miracles from him should not forget that the octogenarian politician is known for playing these tricks.

— Zulfikar Majid (Srinagar) in Deccan Herald

NEWS SPARKLERS

COVID-19 inspires haunted house drive-through experience

Tokyo: A haunted house tour operator in Japan has announced the world's first horror drive-through experience to provide horror enthusiasts with summer scares during the COVID-19 pandemic. Haunted house design company Kowagarasetai has created what it calls the world's first haunted house drive-through experience.

As the name suggests, the upcoming horror-inducing event is meant to be experienced from inside a vehicle. Participants can bring their own cars and pay the admission price of 8,000 yen ($75) or, if they don't have one, they can pay 1,000 yen extra and use a four-seat car provided by the company. All company cars are properly disinfected after each session.

Misleading 'Zombie' toes photo throws Twitter into overdrive

New Delhi: A photo of what looks like a zombie foot peeking from under a log has gone viral on Twitter, confusing a lot of people and blowing the minds of others. Believe it or not, this picture shared online by Indian Forest Service Officer Susanta Nanda isn't taken out of a horror movie, nor is it showing the toes of an actual zombie or a real-life White Walker. Nanda actually challenged his followers to identify the animal, which was just as misleading as the photos, because what you're looking at isn't an animal but a fungus aptly named 'Dead Man's Fingers.'

Xylaria polymorpha, commonly known as Dead Man's Fingers, is a type of fungus that, like its name suggests, looks a lot like the grey fingers of a dead person. It's true that in this particular case the fungus actually passed as human toes, which in my opinion only makes it creepier. Commonly found in forest and woodland areas, this eerie-looking fungus grows from the bases of rotting or injured tree stumps and decaying wood and takes its common name from its elongated upright stromata poking from the ground like fingers. However, despite its morbid appearance, this fungus is innocuous to humans.

SSLC results in August first week

(Continued from page 1)

"We are trying to get the SSLC results out by the first week of August. The PUC results will be out in the last week of July," the Minister told reporters in Bengaluru.

Amid reports of schools increasing the school fees ignoring the Government's direction, the Minister said he has got reports that 1,150 schools have increased their fees of which action has been taken against 450 schools.

"We have directed all the schools not to increase the fees in view of the Coronavirus scare. It is a peculiar year. Humanity says no one should increase fees. We have set up a helpline. If we come across such practices, we will initiate action," Suresh Kumar said. He said an officer has been entrusted to look into the complaints against schools.

Speaking about online classes for kindergarten students, the Minister said such classes are not allowed. The schools can hold talks with parents twice a week about grooming their children. Kumar said a decision on opening kindergarten schools will be taken after July 5.

He, however, conceded that most parents are unwilling to send their children to school. The Govt. is gathering the opinion of parents based on which a decision would be taken, he added.

Regarding education to students from Class one to Class 10, Suresh Kumar said the Centre has given guidelines, which will be followed. The State has formed an expert committee to recommend guidelines on education to children from Class I to Class six. "Once the committee report comes, we will formulate regulations," he added.

Virus infection has not spread from SSLC exam centres: Minister

Suresh Kumar

Bengaluru, June 29 (UNI)- Amidst reports of over 25 students appearing for the ongoing SSLC exams testing positive for COVID-19, Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar has said that though a couple of students appearing for the exams have been found infected, these cases did not spread from exam centres.

The exam began last week and on the first day, the Karnataka State Secondary Education Examination Board recorded a 98.3 percent student attendance. The attendance fell to 97.90 percent on Saturday as per KSEEB Director.

"The Education Department will coordinate with health officials to verify the data of people in the age group of 14 to 16, whose samples are taken for testing. Such students will be allowed to attend the supplementary exams as fresh candidates," Suresh Kumar said.

"A 16-year-old student was attending the exam in a centre situated in Arkalgud town in Hassan. He had recovered from dengue recently and had sent the swab for testing after developing an Influenza-like illness a couple of days back," the Minister said.

The student was affected from dengue and during the blood test, his throat swab was also collected. However, the lab results confirmed him to have contracted COVID, while he was writing the exam. This created anxiety among the parents and the authorities. All the other students, and invigilator, who were subject to test have confirmed negative, he explained.

The Minister also told the reporters that the chief examiner at the centre was informed by the District Administration immediately as the test results were out. "The student was immediately shifted to another separate classroom where he completed the examination. However, the case can be termed asymptomatic as the student is said to have recorded normal temperature before entering the exam hall," Suresh Kumar said.

The Minister was also asked about how the student who was tested positive was allowed to take up the exam. He said that the student ideally should not have attended the exam as it is a threat to others as well.

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

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...a giant? High school.
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VOICE OF THE READER

Repair this deep hole
in the middle of Ring Road

Sir,

This refers to the presence of a deep hole in the middle of the Ring Road near Bharath Cancer Hospital in Hebbal since the last one year.

For sometime, there was a barricade kept by the Traffic Police to alert the motorists but now it is fallen down and there is no one to place it back. I hope the pit-cum-hole will be repaired by the authorities concerned before the monsoon intensifies.

— B.R. Sampath
on e-mail

Mysuru
27.6.2020

Congress' Statewide stir against rising petrol, diesel prices

Protestors ride on pushcarts, tow a car to submit memorandum at DC Office in Mysuru

Mysuru, June 29 (PM&DM)- As part of the Congress' Statewide stir against rising fuel prices, the City and District Unit of the party staged a demonstration in the Congress Bhavan premises near the city Railway Station here this morning.

Accusing the Centre of hiking the prices of petrol and diesel every day for the past three weeks, despite falling international crude oil prices, the party workers urged the Centre to immediately roll back the hiked prices in the interests of the common man, who is already reeling under the effects of COVID-19 induced lockdown.

Claiming that the Centre had failed in containing the spread of the deadly virus, with thousands of positive cases being reported from across the country every day, the protestors urged the Government to provide free treatment to all COVID patients as per the Standard Treatment Protocol being followed in several other countries of the world.

Later, the Congress workers took out a rally along with three pushcarts and towing a car from the Congress Bhavan to the DC Office, passing through Dasappa Circle, Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa Circle (Metropole Circle) and Hunsur road and presented a memorandum at the DC Office condemning the fuel price hike. Earlier, several Congress workers led by former K.R. MLA M.K. Somashekar arrived at the protest venue in bicycles as a mark of protest against rising fuel prices.

MLC R. Dharmasena, former MLA Vasu, City Congress President R. Murthy, District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar, former Mayors Pushpalatha Chikkanna and T.B. Chikkanna, KPCC Spokesperson M. Lakshman, leaders Sunil Bose, Latha Siddashetty, Hedathale Manjunath, R.Prakash Kumar and others were present.

As chain-snatching incidents rise

BJP leader takes to public address system to alert citizens

Mysuru, June 29 (RK&DM)- With the city witnessing a rise in chain-snatching incidents after a brief lull during the COVID-19 induced lockdown, L.R. Mahadevaswamy, a BJP leader and a former Mysuru Taluk Panchayat member, has chosen to create awareness among the people through a public address system fitted atop a vehicle, in all areas coming under Vijayanagar Police Station limits.

Mahadevaswamy has hired an auto to address women and other members of the public on the measures to be taken for prevention of chain-snatching.

Mahadevaswamy said that the auto used for the purpose is fitted with a public address system and other necessary attachments. This awareness campaign will be carried out in all stages of Vijayanagar Layout and other areas for a week.

Throughout the week-long campaign, the public will be educated on the precautionary measures to be taken such as avoiding lonely walk by women, especially on deserted or poorly lit streets, avoiding exposure of gold jewelry while walking or jogging on streets and alertness about strangers walking close by them.

The public are appealed to chase the miscreants and catch them in case they notice chain-snatching attempts and also to immediately call on Vijayanagar Police Station (0821-2418317) or the Police Control Room (0821-2418339) if they find strangers roaming about on streets in motorcycles in a suspicious manner, he said.

Vijayanagar Police Inspector H.R. Balakrishna, who was present during the launch of the campaign, said that such campaigns will educate the people in staying alert.

City Markets re-open after closure for four-day sanitisation drive

Mysuru, June 29 (RKB&DM)- Five major Markets in the heart of the city, namely Devaraja Market, Mannars Market, Shivarampet, Santhepet and Boti Bazar (also called Mutton Market), which were ordered to be shut down by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) for four days from June 25 to 28 for complete cleaning and sanitisation in the wake of COVID-19 spread, reopened today.

As the shops, commercial establishments and other business enterprises in these markets reopened, people were seen visiting the markets in large numbers.

During the four-day closure, the MCC had cleaned, sanitised, fumigated and disinfected the marketplaces as a precautionary and safety measure to contain the spread of the deadly COVID-19, with the city and district reporting a number of fresh positive cases almost every other day for the past couple of weeks.

As the markets re-opened, traders ensured cleanliness and hygiene in their vicinity and also maintenance of physical distancing, wearing of face masks and use of hand sanitisers by the customers, in accordance with the directive issued by the MCC.

The directive had also asked the traders to mandatorily conduct thermal screening of all customers visiting them and to report immediately to the MCC Health Officer if any customer is found to be running a high temperature.

KSOU all set to broadcast lessons through Web Radio in October

Web Radio Convenor Dr. R. Hemalatha, lecturers Dr. R.H. Pavitra and Dr. A.S. Madhura during a recording for KSOU's Web Radio.

Academic syllabus being recorded in radio format on an experiment basis.

Well-equipped studio.

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

Mysuru, June 29- As many educational institutions in city have resorted to online classes for students following lockdown for the last three months, Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) is planning to launch Web Radio in October this year and broadcast lessons for its graduate and post-graduate students. Accordingly, KSOU has started training its teaching faculty and recording would begin in the near future.

KSOU, in the month March itself, was making all necessary arrangements to launch KSOU Web Radio in the month of July, but due to Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown, its preparations got delayed.

COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant shift in the educational landscape for the year 2020-21. Since March 24, academic classes have come to a halt. At this juncture, students have to face exams without attending classes. Discussion about conducting online classes for primary and high school students is still underway.

Following recent relaxation of lockdown, KSOU is now planning to broadcast radio lessons for its graduate and post-graduate students from this October so that KSOU students including those studying in Science, Arts and Commerce streams could pursue their studies by listening to Web Radio.

Every day, classes will be streamed from 6 am to 8 pm and syllabus will be adapted to radio format in the form of discussions, short plays, radio talks and lectures.

Web Radio aims to broadcast lessons based on their syllabus for BA, MA, B.Com, M.Com, B.Sc and M.Sc students which would help both distance learning and regular students of the State including Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Mandya and Hassan.

While in case of traditional terrestrial radio, content is broadcast in the form of airwaves, Web Radio digitises content and routes it through the internet to be made available to listeners. KSOU website URL would have link to its Web Radio and students have to click that link and listen to the content. Students will also be able to access KSOU radio lessons by downloading web radio app in their mobile phones.

In an effort to train their teaching staff to record classes in radio format, KSOU is taking the help of All India Radio (AIR) staff members. Retired AIR Directors and other senior staff members of Mysuru and Dharwad AIR are helping KSOU in this endeavour.

Senior resource persons of AIR including C.U. Bellakki, Diwakar Hegde, S.S. Umesh, Subrahmanya and Srinivas Prasad are training KSOU teaching faculty to take classes so that their lectures could be broadcast in radio format and over 20 KSOU teaching staff have already been trained in the first stage of training and recording session.

KSOU Web Radio Committee is scrutinising the scripts of post-graduate and under-graduate syllabus and after assessing its quality and content, they are converting it to radio format. AIR certified voice-over artistes, teachers and other faculty members are getting an opportunity to record these lessons in proper formats. Participants are being paid an honorarium for their services and getting API scores according to UGC regulations.

The studio which had been constructed earlier for Gnanavani will now be used for these Web Radio recordings. Gnanavani studio which had been non-functional since the last two years is getting a new lease of life and will be used for recording and storing of academic contents.

This Web Radio which aims to reach students in remote parts of India through distance learning programmes is the brainchild of KSOU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S. Vidyashankar. This innovative idea was later endorsed by Registrar Prof. Lingaraj Gandhi and Dean (Academics) Dr. Thejasvi Naviloor. Convenor Dr. R. Hemalatha has now shouldered the responsibility of launching this ambitious Web Radio project together with other staff members of KSOU. This new Web Radio is also aiming to broadcast education related advertisements and if time slot is available, folk songs, devotional songs and light music will be aired as fillers.

Farooqia Pharmacy students bag 35 Ranks

Ashraful Talukdar *Zuha Parveen* *Dharmajit Gogoi* *Jul Hassina* *Haniyah Amir* *Ulfath Fatima*

Ann Madhu *Nusrath* *Gayatri* *Basila* *Irfana*

Mysuru, June 29- B.Pharm and PharmD (PB) students of Farooqia College of Pharmacy, Mysuru, have secured 35 ranks in the June-2019 exams conducted by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS), Bengaluru. Eleven FCP students have secured a total of 35 ranks during the course of their study period from 2015-2019.

FCP got 3 ranks in 1st B.Pharm, 2 ranks in 2nd B.Pharm, 9 ranks in 3rd B.Pharm and 19 ranks in 4th B.Pharm in individual subjects. Dr. Ashraful Talukdar secured 3rd rank in 1st PharmD (PB) Course and 4th rank in overall PharmD (PB) course in Karnataka.

The top rank scorers are Zuha Parveen (7 ranks), Dharmajit Gogoi (7 ranks), Jul Hassina Ahmed (6 ranks), Haniyah Amir Ahmadi (4 ranks), Ulfath Fatima (3 ranks), Ann Madhu (2 ranks) and P.N. Nusrath, Gayatri, Basila and P.M. Irfana secured one rank each. Many students have passed with distinction.

The ranks list is as per the RGUHS notification issued for 22nd Annual Convocation, according to a press release from the College Principal Dr. Md. Salahuddin.

Online Group Study by Degree Students

Mysuru, June 29- The students of Seshadripuram Degree College, Hebbal, have voluntarily come up with the novel initiative to take online revision classes (Group Study) to help their own friends prepare well for the examination in particular and help all the students in general to face the examination with confidence and courage.

The concept of online revision classes by students to students is one of the trending and newest ideas of Seshadripuram Degree College. The videos of the revision classes by the students are uploaded in the YouTube (Seshadripuam Degree College) and the students from across the State can access it and study the concepts in their own pace.

"The testing times of COVID-19 have forced people to adapt themselves to technology and our students have come up with this idea of online revision classes of the students, by the students and for the students," stated the College Principal Prof. K. Sowmya Erappa, in a press release.

Mysuru reports second COVID-19 death

Virus, co-morbidities snuff out 70-year-old man's life; Nine more Containment Zones declared

Disinfectants being sprayed at a Containment Zone in J.P. Nagar this morning.

Mysuru, June 29 (MTY&BCT)- Mysuru reported its second COVID-19 death yesterday. The district recorded 18 virus infections, taking the total number of positive cases to 255. Yesterday, 32 people have been cured and discharged and the cumulative discharges stand at 164 and there are 89 active cases.

A 70-year-old was admitted to the designated COVID-19 Hospital and was being treated since four to five days after he tested positive. He hails from Kalyanagiri and was suffering from Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI). The first COVID death in Mysuru was reported on June 24 when an 87-year-old man from Bengaluru, who was being treated at K.R. Nagar and Mysuru hospitals, breathed his last.

Despite the best treatment from doctors, the 70-year-old man died on Saturday as he was suffering from age-related ailments and had other co-morbidities like fever, cough and respiratory complications.

As a precaution, the last rites were conducted at 1.30 am on Sunday and as per COVID guidelines. PPE kits were worn during the last rites and the rituals were conducted in the presence of family members after obtaining the family's consent and taking all precautions. District Health Officer Dr. R. Venkatesh told 'Star of Mysore' that measures were taken as per the protocol issued by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).

Yesterday (June 28), 18 COVID-19 positive cases were reported in Mysuru and they included 8 women. As per the media bulletin released by Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, four cases are primary contacts, four SARI, four hospital-admitted Influenza-like Illness (ILI), one from Containment Zone, two asymptomatic, one pregnant lady and two inter-district travellers.

All of yesterday's 18 cases are from home quarantine. Till last evening, 19,469 samples have been tested and of them, 19,214 have been tested negative. Total number of persons observed till date are 11,666 while 8,945 have completed isolation of 14 days and 2,437 persons have been isolated in home for 14 days.

Apart from the already announced 54 Containment Zones in Mysuru district, the District Administration has announced nine more Containment Zones yesterday. They are:

- 4th Cross Raghavendranagar, Mysuru
- 16th Cross, Ramakrishnanagar, Mysuru
- 5th Cross, Stone Park, Quba Masjid Road, Udayagiri, Mysuru
- 23rd Main D-Block J.P. Nagar, Mysuru
- 9th Cross, Lalitha Mahal Nagar, Mysuru
- 2nd Cross, Sultan Road, Ghousianagar, Mysuru
- 1st Cross Kumbara Giri, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysuru
- Durga Parameshwari Temple Road, Hampapura, K.R. Nagar
- Basvarajpura, K.R. Nagar, Mysuru

Chamarajanagar lab closed

A laboratory exclusively meant to test COVID-19 samples at Government Medical College in Chamarajanagar has been temporarily shut as one of the technicians who is serving in the laboratory tested positive for the virus.

As the laboratory is closed, throat swab samples of several other suspect cases have been sent to Bengaluru and the results are awaited.

The T. Narasipur Town Police Station has been sealed down as Head Constable in the Station has contracted the disease. All the other Policemen have been temporarily shifted to Talakad Police Station. The 58-year-old Head Constable, who tested positive, worked in the computer section. He has been admitted to Mysuru's designated COVID Hospital and the Police Station and nearby Vidyodaya College Circle have been sanitised.

PM Modi calls shepherd from Mandya a 'Water Warrior

The octogenarian, who created 16 ponds, responds, "It is the greatest joy of my life"

Mandya, June 29 (Nagaiah&BCT)- An 84-year-old shepherd from a remote Dasanadoddi village in Malavalli Taluk of Mandya found a place in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' that was aired on All India Radio yesterday.

Modi, asking listeners to divert attention and efforts towards water conservation and to focus on saving water, discussed this year's monsoon season and said, "A little effort by us will help our nature and environment significantly." He then narrated the story of Kamegowda, an octogenarian shepherd who has dug 16 ponds in his village in the past few decades. To solve the village's problem of water scarcity he has dug the ponds to collect rainwater, with his own savings, converting the barren hillock into a bed of lakes. The Prime Minister urged people to think about initiatives that can conserve water.

Responding to Modi's gesture, Kalmane Kamegowda said, "The Prime Minister is using all his knowledge to save people from COVID-19 and he remembered me. It is the greatest joy of my life."

PM Modi applauded his efforts and referred to him as one of the "water warriors" in the country. "Kamegowda takes out his animals for grazing, but at the same time he has taken it upon himself to build new ponds in his area. He wants to overcome the problem of water scarcity in his area and is engaged in work on constructing small ponds. Today, the entire area has got a new lease of life on account of these ponds," the Prime Minister said.

42-year-old efforts

Kamegowda has no formal education but has turned an entire Kundooru Betta hillside at Dasanadoddi village green over the past four decades. About 42 years ago, Kamegowda realised that Kundooru Betta (Hill) which is located beside his village had very less greenery.

He realised that there was no water retention on the hill. Whatever water it received from the rain, either ran down the hillside or got evaporated or absorbed. That's when he thought of developing a watering hole for the animals and birds. He went on to create 16 ponds.

Saplings planted for green cover

With a desire to ensure a green cover on the Kundooru Betta, Kamegowda also planted more than 2,000 saplings on the hillock. With the plants having grown into trees, there is a lush jungle on the hillock that is a treat to the eyes.

People had called him crazy — or 'Huchcha' that means lunatic in Kannada — for working day and night to build the tanks, but the efforts of the illiterate shepherd have been an inspiration to people hoping to undertake such work to increase the green cover.

The same 'Huchcha' was awarded Rajyotsava Award in November 2018 and the Award recognised Kamegowda's selflessness. Always clad in ragged clothes, holding a club in hand and with a small pouch hanging from his shoulder, this old man walks throughout the day to see the lakes that he nurtured and beams a bright smile every time he spots birds and animals rejoicing in the lakes — a gift of Mother Nature.

CM clicks open COVID Testing Lab at JSS Hospital

Karnataka which had only two Labs in February now has 79 Testing Labs

Mysuru, June 29 (RKB&BCT)- Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa virtually inaugurated Mysuru's first private COVID-19 Testing Lab set up by JSS Medical College at JSS Hospital. The lab will assist the Government testing facilities in Mysuru, the CM said.

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus crisis, the lab was dedicated to people online where Yediyurappa, Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar and Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar logged in from Bengaluru while Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji was present online and MLAs S.A. Ramdas and L. Nagendra and JSS authorities physically present at the laboratory.

The Chief Minister said that testing is the need of the hour and the JSS institutions that has provided food and education to millions of students since decades stood ahead in establishing a modern testing facility. JSS Medical College is a model to other Medical Colleges in the State, Yediyurappa said.

Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar too stressed the need of mass testing and underlined the 5 'T' — Testing, Tracking, Treatment, Team Work and Tracking and Monitoring — and said "I am personally monitoring the situation and the preparations. I am sure if we are well prepared, we will be able to win this fight against Coronavirus."

Dr. Sudhakar said that the JSS Lab is Karnataka's 79th Testing Lab. "We had only two Labs in February and now we have 79 including Government and Private and so far we have tested 6 lakh samples," he said.

Head of the JSS Laboratory Col. (Retd) Dayanand, Pro-Chancellor of JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research Dr. B. Suresh and Principal of JSS Medical College Dr. H. Basavana Gowdappa were present on the occasion.

Heavy rains turn city roads into rivers

(Continued from page 1)

Roadside fruits and flower vendors had to pack their belongings and move to safe places to safeguard their perishable items.

Overflowing drains: Due to heavy downpour, the big drain from Vijayanagar 3rd Stage towards Bogadi 2nd Stage, the drains from MUDA to Yelethota were in full spate while the big drain near Niveditha Nagar overflowed on the road. This drain is clogged and water entered Anandanagar, flooding almost all roads.

Mysuru City Corporation Development Officer Sathyamurthy and staff cleared the garbage in the drain and made way for smooth flow of rainwater.

Many roads in low lying areas such as Kanakagiri, Gundurao Nagar and Bhyraveshwaranagar were flooded with rainwater entering a few houses. Residents said that this is the problem they were suffering every year when it rains heavily. They said that the big drain at St. Mary's Circle had collapsed causing more problems.

Rainwater entered a hotel on Chamaraja Double Road flooding the hotel and the big drain from Vijayanagar Water Tank, passing through Vijayanagar 2nd and 3rd Stages is damaged near Adichunchanagiri Mutt, resulting in rainwater flooding KEB Extension in Vijayanagar 3rd Stage.

Meanwhile this morning, the MCC Abhaya Team staff were busy doing city rounds and clearing clogged drains while the personnel from Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Company (CESC) were seen looking at possible problems and solving them to prevent danger.

Rider killed as two bikes collide head-on near Nanjangud

Ravikumar

Nanjangud, June 29 (RS & KS)- A 52-year-old man was killed on the spot while another rider sustained serious injuries when their bikes collided head-on near Mahadevanagar on Nanjangud-Chamarajanagar Road yesterday night.

While the deceased has been identified as Ravikumar alias Papachhi of Nanjangud, brother of former Zilla Panchayat member Shashirekha and proprietor of Shashidhar Complex, opposite to Ambedkar Bhavan on Nanjangud-Chamarajanagar Bypass Road, the injured is 32-year-old Prasanna, a resident of Kodinarasipura village.

Yesterday at about 8.30 pm, Ravikumar was proceeding from Badanalu village towards Nanjangud on his bike, while Prasanna was proceeding from Nanjangud towards Kodinarasipura when their bikes collided head-on near Mahadevanagar.

Ravikumar, who suffered serious injuries died on the spot, while Prasanna, who too suffered serious injuries was rushed to Nanjangud General Hospital, where he was provided first-aid and was later rushed to a private hospital in Mysuru, where he is undergoing treatment.

Kavalande Police conducted mahazar and registered a case.

Kannada novelist Geetha Nagabhushan no more

Kalaburagi, June 29- Kannada novelist Geetha Nagabhushan (78) passed away at a private hospital here last night following cardiac arrest.

Geetha Nagabhushan

Born on March 25, 1942, into a poor family at Savalagi village of Kalaburagi district, Geetha Nagabhushan had to struggle hard to pass through the patriarchal environment to get educated and serve as a lecturer, reader and professor for over thirty years.

She was the first woman writer to bag Kendra Sahitya Academy and Nadoja awards and serve as the Chairperson of Karnataka Sahitya Academy. She had presided over 76th Akhil Bharat Kannada Sahitya Sammelan, a prestigious literary fest, held at Gadag in 2010.

Geetha's works that challenged the patriarchal approaches and gender discriminations were widely admired across sections. Her works include 50 short stories, 27 novels, 12 plays, two collections of poems and research works. Baduku (novel), Hasimamsa Mattu Haddugalu (novel), Avva Mattu Itara Kathegalu (collection of short stories), Jwalantha (collection of short stories) and Jogini (play) are among her works that were widely read and discussed.

The honours and awards she received includes Karnataka Rajotsava Award (1998), Danachintamani Attimabbe Award (2002), Nadoja award (2004), Kendra Sahitya Academy award (2004), Bhasha Parishat Award from Kolkata (2012) and an honorary doctorate from Gulbarga University among others.

Last rites were held at Kalaburagi this afternoon.

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